

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 9-20 are currently pending in the application. By this response, claims 7 and 8 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No claims are amended or added. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Amendment is Proper for Entry

Applicants respectfully submit that entry of this amendment is proper because the amendment places the application in condition for allowance by canceling all rejected claims, leaving only allowed claims pending. Alternatively, Applicants submit the amendment places the application in better form for appeal.

Advisory Action

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's consideration of the Amendment filed June 22, 2007. In an Advisory Action dated July 11, 2007, following the Amendment, the Examiner indicated that the 35 USC §101 rejection of claims 1-6 was withdrawn, and that the 35 USC §112, second paragraph, rejection of claims 7 and 8 had been overcome. The Examiner further indicated that claims 1-6 and 9-20 were allowed, and claims 7 and 8 remain rejected.

Allowed Claims

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 1-6 and 9-20 are allowed. By this response, rejected claims 7 and 8 are canceled, leaving only allowed claims 1-6 and 9-20 pending. Accordingly, Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. §101 Rejection

Claims 1-6 were rejected in the Final Office Action dated March 22, 2007, under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. However, as noted above, this rejection was withdrawn in the Advisory Action dated July 11, 2007.

35 U.S.C. §112 Rejection

Claim 7 was rejected in the Final Office Action dated March 22, 2007, under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph. However, as noted above, this rejection was withdrawn in the Advisory Action dated July 11, 2007. In any event, by this response, claim 7 is canceled, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection

Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 4,641,527 issued to Hiroi *et al.* ("Hiroi"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

While Applicants do not agree that the applied art anticipates the claimed invention, by this response, claims 7 and 8 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, the rejection of these claims is moot. Applicants expressly reserve the right to refile the subject matter of any of these claims in one or more continuing applications.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection over claims 7 and 8 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all of the claims are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below, if needed. Applicants hereby make a written conditional petition for extension of time, if required. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Respectfully submitted,
Touichirou TAKAI

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew M. Calderon", written over a horizontal line.

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